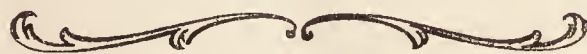


Annual Report
OF THE
Health and Sanitary Condition
OF THE
Heysham Urban District
FOR 1925.



RICHARD HERD,

Medical Officer of Health.



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Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Heysham Urban District for 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the Heysham Urban District
Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my 22nd Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Heysham Urban District.

The present report is a survey report and gives some details of the changes and improvements which have been made during the last five years.

The area of the district is 1,691 acres and the estimated population as given by the Ministry of Health was 3,820 in 1921 and 4,531 in 1925; this is undoubtedly too low an estimate, and I am sure that the present population is at least 1,000 more than the figures given above. This is a very important matter as it makes the death-rate appear much higher than it would be if the exact figures could be obtained.

The number of occupied houses at the end of 1925 was 1,528, and if we accept the Ministry's estimate, this makes the average number of occupants per house 2.3.—I would suggest that a census of the population be taken during the winter months, care being taken to exclude any visitors who might be staying in the District.

Heysham is a seaside health resort, but it might also be said to be to some extent a residential district, as probably not more than half the houses take in visitors.

The rateable value is £41,466, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £162.

The chief occupation of the inhabitants is that of boarding-house keepers, but from 400 to 500 men are employed at the Heysham Harbour, some of whom, however, reside in the Morecambe district. A number of men and women are also employed at the Bobbin Mill.

The growth and progress of the District has been very marked during the last five years. During that period 418 new houses have been erected. Great improvements have been made in the condition of the Roads. The main road from Cross Cop to Higher Heysham has been widened and straightened so that instead of having a number of short curves it is now almost a straight road. Sandylands Lane, from Higher Heysham Road to Lower Heysham, has also been widened, and the two dangerous bends in the Lower Heysham Hill have been straightened out. This is a great improvement as it has done away with the danger of accidents at these blind corners. A great improvement has also been effected at Four Lane Ends, where the farm buildings have been pulled down, and the approach to Lancaster Road considerably widened. A great improvement has been made in the sewerage system during this period. A new sewer has been laid from Cross Cop to Higher Heysham, and at the present time a new sewerage scheme has been started which will enable every part of the district to be properly sewered, and will obviate the necessity of having privies and sewage tanks which have been necessary on account of the difficulty in connecting certain parts of the district with the present sewerage system.

During the period under review 16 privies have been converted to the water carriage system, and when the new sewage scheme is completed I hope that all the existing privies will be similarly treated.

Considerable improvements have been made in the water supply. A new main has been laid from Four Lanes End to Heysham and Sandylands, and a storage reservoir has been erected near Higher Heysham. There is still, however, insufficient pressure in certain parts of the district, and to obviate this it has been decided to lay a larger main from Lancaster to Four Lanes End, and it is expected that this work will be carried out during the present year.

I am sorry to say that nothing has yet been done to improve the Promenade from the Grosvenor Hotel to the Battery. The Council is quite alive to the dangerous state of this Prom-

enade, and to the number of accidents, some of them fatal, which have occurred during recent years from want of a protective railing. The Parliamentary Bill which would have enabled them to deal with this was unfortunately rejected by a majority of the ratepayers, but I think that if a less extensive scheme were again submitted to the ratepayers, it would receive their sanction.

An arrangement has been made whereby all sea-borne cases of Small Pox can be treated at the Lancaster Small Pox Hospital, and a scheme is now under consideration whereby all cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases could be removed to the Lancaster Fever Hospital. This, I think, would be an excellent arrangement, and comes at a very appropriate time, as with our increasing population it will soon be necessary to increase our accommodation for the isolation of Infectious Diseases.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of deaths notified during 1925 was 81, 36 of males and 45 of females. This gives a death-rate of 17.8, and is the highest rate recorded in this district for the last 22 years, and is 3.2 higher than the average for the last five years. As I have already mentioned, this high rate is undoubtedly in a great measure due to the estimate of population being much too low.

There was one death from Whooping Cough and one from Influenza.

Three deaths occurred from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and one from other Tubercular Diseases. This gives a death-rate from Tubercular Diseases of 0.66, which is 0.43 higher than the rate for last year, and 0.10 above the average for the last five years.

There were no deaths from other Infectious Diseases.

Of the other principal causes of death 10 were due to Cancer, 8 to Cerebral Haemorrhage, 18 to Heart Diseases, 6 to Bronchitis, 3 to Pneumonia, 5 to Nephritis, and 2 to Premature Birth.

Forty-three births were registered in 1925, 29 of males and 24 of females. This gives a rate of 11.6, and is 0.3 below the average for the last five years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Twenty-one cases of Infectious Diseases were notified dur-

ing the year, which were as follows:—

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	7	3	...
Diphtheria ..	2	...	...
Pneumonia ...	2	...	...
Enciphalitis Lethargia	1	...	1
Erysipelas ...	2	.	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	6	...	3
Other forms of Tuberculous ...	1	...	1

Scarlet Fever was fairly prevalent in 1921 and 1922, but since that outbreak the district has been comparatively free from this disease, and there has been no marked outbreak of other Notifiable Diseases during the last five years.

The Council provides free examination of Throat Swabs, Blood and Sputum in suspected cases of Diphtheria, Enteric Fever and Phthisis, and, in Diphtheria, Antitoxin is also provided.

Of Non-Notifiable Diseases, Measles was prevalent in January of this year, and the Higher Heysham School was closed for a period of 14 days on account of this disease.

A larger percentage of Tubercular Diseases has been notified during the present year, but some of these cases had recently come to live in the district, and two were temporary residents.

Below is given particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis, and of deaths from this disease:—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary,	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Yrs.								
15-20	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
20-25	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
25-35	2	2	...	1	...	1	...	...
45-65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals ..	6		1		3		1	

There is a Tuberculosis dispensary situated at Lancaster, and all cases are visited by Dr. Brunwin, the Medical Officer.

The following is a list of residential institutions for the treatment of cases occurring in this district:—

Luneside Sanatorium, Lancaster, for advanced cases.

High Corley Sanatorium, Ulverston.

Elswick Sanatorium, Kirkham.

The Lancashire County Council supply gratuitously to all Medical Practitioners the necessary outfit for collecting material for examination from persons suspected to be suffering from Venereal Disease, and these can be sent to any of the following institutions:—

The University of Liverpool Laboratories, Mount Pleasant.

The University of Manchester Public Health Laboratory, Oxford Road.

The Venereal Diseases Laboratory, Victoria Hospital, Burnley.

Treatment can be obtained at the Preston Royal Infirmary, Deepdale Road.

The Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases is situated within the district, and consists of four beds for Scarlet Fever, and four beds for Small Pox.

Cases of ordinary sickness and accidents are conveyed to the Morecambe Queen Victoria Hospital.—The latter are conveyed by Motor Ambulance, and the former by Horse Ambulance.

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre which is extensively used.

A Child Welfare Nurse is employed by the County Council.

The Public Health Officers consist of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. R. Herd; the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Miller; and the Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Docton, the two latter being whole time Officers.

There is a District Nurse living in the District.

There are no registered Midwives residing within the Heysham Area.

The following local Acts and Bye-laws are in force in the area:—

Public Health Acts (Amendment), 1907.

Public Health Acts (Amendment), 1925.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889 and 1899.

Public Health (Prevention and Treatment of Diseases) Act, 1913.

Bye-laws with respect to Nuisances, Slaughter Houses, etc.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The Water Supply is obtained from Lancaster, and is of good quality. I have already mentioned that there is a shortage in certain areas, and that steps are being taken to remedy this shortage.

There are no rivers or streams within the District.

The Sewage is carried out into the open sea.

The number of privies converted to the Water Carriage System during the present year was 3, and of pail closets 2.

The number of privies still remaining is 57. Most of these cannot be abolished until the new sewerage scheme has been completed.

The scavenging is done by the Council's workmen. All refuse is removed by a motor refuse disposal van, and is tipped into a disused claypit on the outskirts of the district.

There is insufficient closet accommodation at the Bobbin Works, and these are not emptied with sufficient frequency.

The number of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector during the year was 20.—Number of nuisances discovered, 16; and number abated 16.

Number of informal notices served, 16; Statutory, none; legal proceedings, none.

The only offensive trades within the district are two fish and chip shops. These are kept clean.

The condition of the workshops is good.—There are no common lodging houses.

The Heysham School is overcrowded, and there is insufficient cloak-room accommodation.

Although a large number of new houses have been erected there is still a slight shortage. A number of railway carriages are still used as dwelling-houses. I think the time has come when notices should be given for the evacuation of these dwelling places, and that the tenants should be given an opportunity of renting some of the new houses which are now being erected.

The general standard of housing is good, and most of the defects found have been due to damp, defective gutters, etc. These defects are mainly due to the property being very old, and lack of supervision by the owners.

The number of dwelling-houses inspected by the Medical Officer of Health was 19. The defects in two houses in Carr Lane which were reported last year as requiring repairs to make them fit for habitation have been remedied; but the house in Bailey Lane which I condemned some years ago is still occupied, and nothing has been done to make it more habitable. It has no downpipe from the gutters at the front and back of the house; the back of the house abuts against a neighbouring house, and the water from the roof simply runs down the side of the wall. If the house is to remain occupied these defects should be remedied without delay.

There is very little overcrowding, and this is gradually being remedied as more new houses are erected.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected—226.

With State assistance under the Housing Acts—

1. By the Local Authority—Nil.
2. By other persons—168.

Financial assistance for the purpose of increasing housing accommodation—

Advances made by loans: No. 114; amount, £54,475.

Advances made by subsidy: No. 154; amount, £11,550.

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects—19.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected under the Housing Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925—19.

Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for occupation—1.

Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects fit for habitation—2.

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority—2.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925:—

1. Number of dwelling-houses in which notices were served requiring repairs—Nil.

2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice—Nil.

3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declaration of owners of intention to close—Nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—3

2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners—3;

(b) By Local Authority—Nil.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925:—

Number of representations made with a view to making of closing orders—Nil.

Number of dwelling-houses in which closing orders were made—Nil.

Number of dwelling houses in which demolition orders were made—Nil.

D.—Number of dwelling-houses demolished voluntarily by owners or converted to workshops—Nil.

The Milk Supply is clean and of good quality.

Number of Dealers' Licences issued during 1925 in respect of—

Certified Milk—Nil.

Grade A (Tuberculin tested) Milk—Nil.

Grade A Milk—Nil.

Pasteurising Plants—Nil.

The number of cowsheds is 17, all of which I have inspected during the year. Most of the larger cowsheds are in good condition, but some of the smaller buildings have not sufficient air space and are badly lighted and ventilated.

Winter End Farm is deficient in air space and badly lighted. The same applies to Blackberry Hall, where there are two buildings, and one of these, which is used for young cattle, has no drain.

The cowshed at Royal Hotel Farm is also defective with regard to light and ventilation.

There are two Slaughter-houses, one of which is registered and the other licensed. Both are kept clean.

There are 7 Bakehouses, 4 of which are very small, and supply a limited neighbourhood. All are kept clean and are regularly whitewashed.

PORT SANITARY MATTERS.

The number of foreign vessels entering Heysham Harbour was 16 from Oporto, Bilbao, Seville, Hambourgh, having a combined tonnage of 18,195; and 299 from the Irish Free State, of which the combined tonnage was 107,280. The principal cargoes of the first-mentioned boats was cork shavings, iron ore, kainet and roof tiles. The cargoes from the Irish Free State consisted mainly of live cattle and general cargo. The total number of foreign boats was 315, and the tonnage 125,475.

The number of coastwise steamers was 655, having a combined tonnage of 350,798, the cargo being mainly live cattle and general cargo.

The number of inspections made by me during the year was: Foreign vessels, 20; coastwise vessels, 2; and the number of notices served—Nil.

Any cases of suspected sickness would be notified by wireless, but there have been no cases of infectious or contagious diseases during the year.—An arrangement has been made whereby all cases of sea-borne infectious diseases would be removed to the Lancaster Sanatorium. The cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings is carried out by the Council.

A rat catcher is employed by the Heysham Council, and the number of rats destroyed during the year was 600; but no

rats have been destroyed on board ship, as on account of the nature of the cargo of the foreign boats very few rats are found.

The number of vessels inspected by the Sanitary Inspector was 15.

There are a number of shell fish beds in the district, and on examination some of them were found to be contaminated with sewage.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD HERD.

Medical Officer of Health,
Heysham Urban District.